



**East Lake Sammamish Trail
North and South Sammamish segments**

Open House Summary

March 2014

east lake sammamish trail

King County Parks **Your
Big Backyard**



King County

Cougar
Mountain
Regional
Wildland Park

ISSAQUAH

REDMOND

NE 70th St

187th Ave NE

202

LAKE
SAMMAMISH

NE Inglewood Hill Road

SAMMAMISH

SE 33rd St

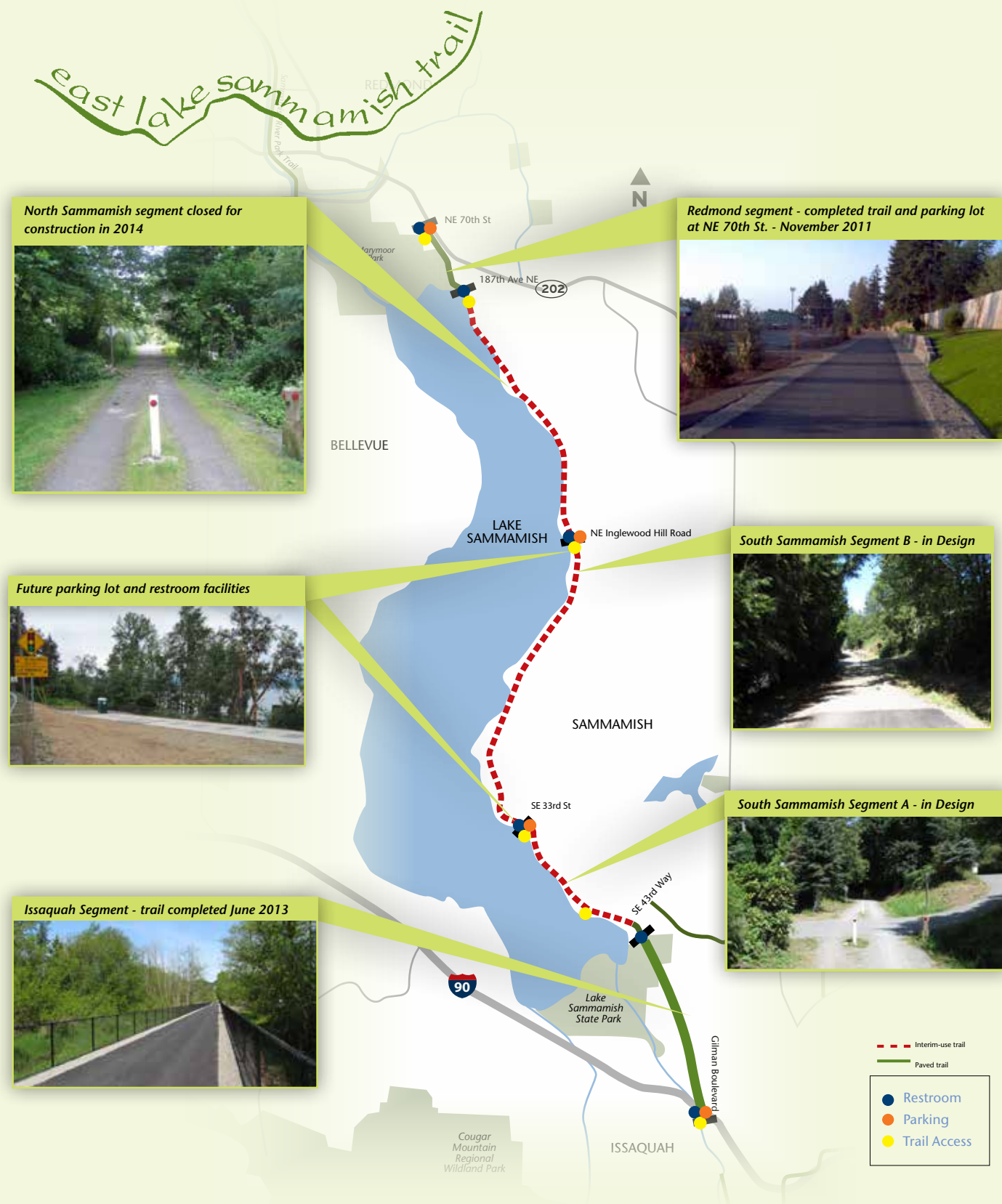
SE 43rd Way

90

Lake
Sammamish
State Park

Cilman Boulevard





Background

The East Lake Sammamish Master Plan Trail (ELST) is an alternative non-motorized transportation corridor and multi-use recreational trail along 11 miles of former Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad corridor on the east side of Lake Sammamish, from Redmond to Issaquah. King County purchased the corridor in 1998 and opened an interim gravel trail in 2006. King County Parks (Parks) has spent more than 15 years on master planning, design work and environmental review for this project, with ongoing involvement of a citizen's advisory group and close coordination with the cities of Redmond, Sammamish, and Issaquah.

Trail safety and accessibility are Parks primary goals. The new trail features a 12-foot wide asphalt surface with two-foot gravel shoulders and a one-foot clear zone on each side of the trail. The ELST project provides improved intersections, clear sight lines, consistent signage and improved drainage. Environmental improvements include enhancing wetlands, stabilizing slopes, installing fish-passable culverts, and planting native landscaping. The redeveloped trail will benefit people of all ages and abilities – providing a safe and healthy activities for families, individuals, and communities to enjoy. King County is designing and constructing the East Lake Sammamish Trail corridor in phases as funding becomes available. ELST is the missing link in the 44-mile seamless urban regional trail corridor linking Seattle to the suburban cities and the Cascade Foothills.

Trail Timeline



Open house overview

King County hosted four neighborhood open houses in March 2014 for the North and South Sammamish segments of the East Lake Sammamish Trail (ELST) project. The purpose of the open houses was to provide an opportunity for the community to share comments with the project team before design of the South Sammamish trail segment advances. Additionally, the project team was available to explain how King County develops the trail alignment, the benefits of improving this important regional trail, and to provide information on the upcoming construction of the North Sammamish segment. The open houses provided an informal setting for trail users, neighbors, and businesses to talk with King County staff and share their comments and concerns. Each open house was focused on a specific geographic segment, however the same materials were presented at each meeting and are available on the project website: www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail.

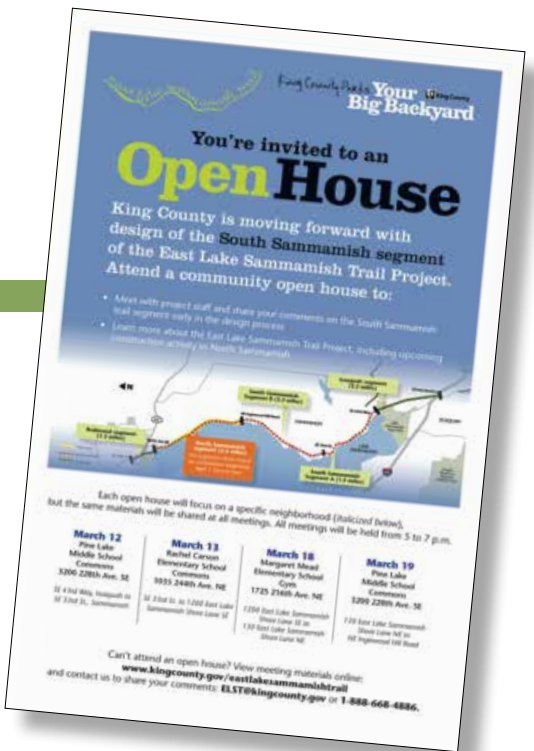
Open house dates and locations:

- Wednesday, March 12
Pine Lake Middle School, Commons
3200 228th Ave. SE
Sammamish, WA
- Thursday, March 13
Rachel Carson Elementary School,
Commons
1035 244th Ave NE,
Sammamish, WA
- Tuesday, March 18
Margaret Mead Elementary School, Gym
1725 216th Ave NE
Sammamish, WA
- Wednesday, March 19
Pine Lake Middle School, Commons
3200 228th Ave. SE
Sammamish, WA

Meeting Notification:

In an effort to ensure all trail neighbors, users, and project stakeholders had an opportunity to participate, Parks hosted a total of four open houses. King County advertised the open houses through the following channels:

- Newsletter mailed to approximately 1,800 stakeholders, residents and property owners within 500-feet of the East Lake Sammamish Trail
- Email announcement sent to 185 individuals on the project email listserv
- King County press release sent to local newspapers
- Announcement on King County's project website and the City of Sammamish event calendar

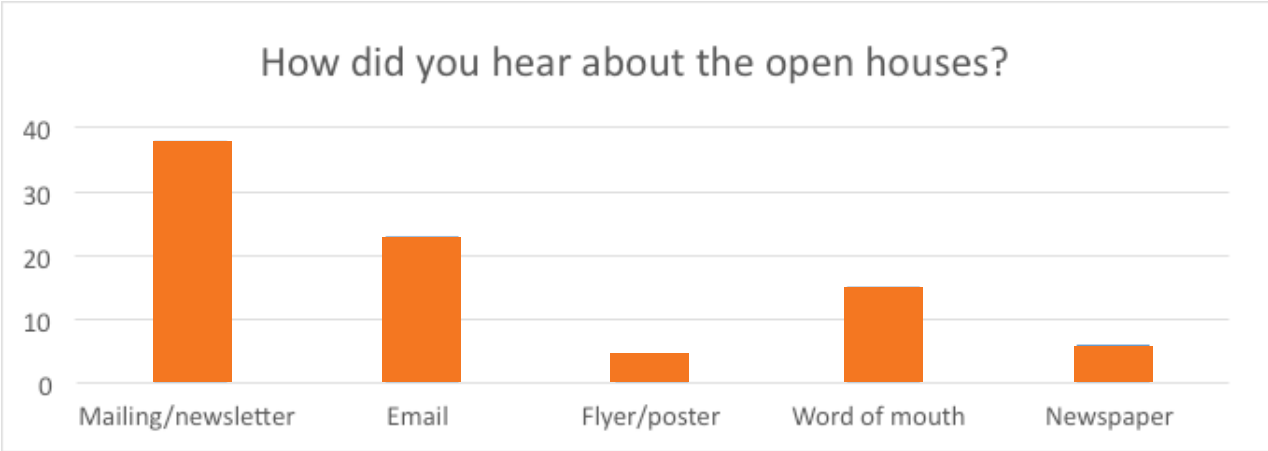


- City of Sammamish newsletter sent to 16,500 individuals
- Approximately 20 posters were distributed to community locations and posted along the trail
- Open house notifications were placed in the Sammamish Review and Issaquah-Sammamish Reporter
- Announcement on King County Parks Facebook page

Meeting format

Each meeting was structured as an informal open house with display boards and ariel maps set-up around the room. Attendees were greeted by project staff, and received a comment form and a Frequently Asked Questions folio. A photo slideshow played throughout the open house, featuring trail trivia and before and after photos of the East Lake Sammamish Trail. The display boards featured general project overview information, including why King County is developing the East Lake Sammamish Trail, the criteria used to determine the trail alignment, design features, information about landscaping, and community outreach opportunities. Information about King County's regional trail system and other facilities was posted. The meeting included a station focused on construction of the North Sammamish segment. All of the display boards and handouts used at the Open Houses are available for your information on the project website. Large scale aerial maps featuring the trail footprint and existing conditions were available for review. Attendees were provided the opportunity to share their comments verbally with the design team, by writing directly on the maps, by submitting a comment form at the open house or commenting via email.

All of the meetings were held from 5 to 7 p.m. in public schools near the project area. The table below summarizes how participants heard about the open houses:



Comment summary



King County received approximately 140 comments at the open houses and in the following weeks. All of the comments were provided to the design team and were reviewed and considered as design advanced.

Key themes

The comments are summarized below by key themes. Please see the full record of comments received and King County’s responses in Appendix A.

Safety

Thirty-six comments a cited concern for safety along the trail corridor, especially at trail crossings. A number of individuals expressed concern for bicycle safety and encouraged King County to enforce trail speed limits and incorporate design features that calm traffic. Several comments requested additional trail access points from the east side of East Lake Sammamish Parkway. There were a few comments related to stop signs along the trail. Safety is King County’s highest priority. All trail users are required to obey the posted speed limit and Code of Conduct (King County Code Section 7.12.295) which

will be posted along the trail corridor. The new trail is designed to improve safety for trail users, it features enhanced intersections and crossing treatments. The scope of the ELST project does not include improving or providing additional access to the trail across East Lake Sammamish Parkway. However, King County is coordinating with the City of Sammamish and supports their efforts to improve crossings along the Parkway.

Trail alignment and amenities

Twenty-seven comments identified interest in trail alignment and amenities, including fences,

restrooms, soft surface shoulders, and bicycle amenities. There was mixed support and concern for restroom facilities. Some commenters requested additional restroom facilities and others expressed concern for vandalism and litter.

Property access

Twenty-four comments expressed interest and concern for maintaining safe access to their properties, especially for emergency vehicles and during construction. A few comments expressed an interest in preserving parking spaces. King County is working closely with Eastside Fire and Rescue during design and will maintain access for emergency responders. As design progresses, King County will contact all property owners to coordinate trail construction and property access. During construction, King County will require the contractor to maintain access to adjacent private properties.

Landscaping and trees

Eighteen comments related to landscaping and trees along the trail corridor. Some individuals encouraged King County to preserve existing landscaping along the trail corridor, citing concern for potential loss of privacy and increased noise. There was widespread interest in developing a robust landscaping plan. A few comments expressed concern for safety caused by existing landscaping next to the trail. Several upland trail neighbors shared concerns about trees that block views of the lake. King County is balancing a number of factors to build a safe trail, within an a narrow corridor, steep terrain, while avoiding impacts to environmentally sensitive areas as required by local, state, and federal regulations. Designing a wider trail, that is safe and accessible for all users and meets necessary engineering and safety criteria, will require removing trees that

conflict with the achievement of the project goals. King County Parks loves trees and is working with an arborist to minimize removal of existing trees and landscaping. The ELST project includes a robust landscaping plan to restore the project area. Native plants, shrubs, and groundcover thrive well in the natural environment and will help make the trail feel like a park.

Utilities

Eighteen comments mentioned existing utilities that may conflict with trail construction. This information will help the design team identify and plan for known utilities as design advances. King County will contact all property owners to identify existing utilities and coordinate with trail construction. This information will be reflected in the design plans.

Drainage

Seventeen comments cited specific issues regarding drainage, water runoff, and flooding near the trail. King County’s approach to stormwater management follows the King County Surface Water Design Manual and the City of Sammamish Surface Water Design Manual Addendum. The ELST project design includes infiltration trenches in areas under the gravel shoulder of the future trail to avoid adverse impacts to downstream properties. King County is working closely with individual property owners and residents to understand and address specific issues regarding drainage.

Environment and wildlife

There were nine comments related to the environment and wildlife habitat. Specifically, public comments requested preserving wildlife passage across the trail, protecting wildlife habitat, promoting fish passage, and protecting

environmentally sensitive areas, including streams and wetlands. There were also a few concerns regarding wetland delineation. The ELST project includes replacing at least five culverts with fish passable structures. King County is working closely with the Kokanee Work Group to identify opportunities to support their objectives. There are over 70 identified wetlands in the 11-mile ELST corridor. King County completed an assessment of these wetlands in 2012. The findings of this work are documented in the final Critical Area Study also available on the project website.

Trail maintenance

King County received four comments requesting trail maintenance to control litter and maintain landscaping and trail access. These comments were shared with King County maintenance crews.

Community outreach

King County offers several ways for the public, trail users, and neighbors to learn more and stay involved.

- Please visit the project website for the latest information, including weekly construction updates, informational materials, and recent project newsletters:
www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail.
- Share your comments 24/7 by calling the hotline: 1-888-668-4886 or email ELST@kingcounty.gov. A project representative will respond within one business day.
- Attend an upcoming neighborhood meeting to view the design plans, ask questions, provide

Design milestones

Three comments requested more information and project updates at key design milestones. King County will post all design and construction plans to the project website and will engage the public and trail neighbors as design progresses.

Meetings with trail neighbors

Two comments requested small group and individual site meetings to discuss design details and property specific topics with project staff. Many participants expressed interest in staying involved in the project and encouraged King County to offer public involvement opportunities as design progresses. King County conducted five small group and individual meetings with trail neighbors to review the Preliminary Trail Alignment plans, in July/August 2014 for Segment A and will schedule additional meetings in fall/winter 2014-2015 for Segment B.

comments, and meet with project staff. If you're not able to attend one of the meetings, contact us to schedule a time that works well for you.

- Subscribe to our email alerts and mailing list to stay informed of current design and construction activities
- Follow our blog:
kingcountyparks.wordpress.com
- For the latest King County Parks news:



@lheartkcparks

What's next?

South Sammamish design

King County is advancing the design and permitting of South Sammamish segments throughout 2014 and the first part of 2015. Preliminary Trail Alignment Plans for Segment A were published in June 2014. King County is holding five neighborhood meetings on Segment A to explain the design plans, answer questions, and listen to comments. For more information about these meetings and to view the design plans, visit: www.kingcounty.gov/eastlakesammamishtrail.

King County anticipates publishing Preliminary Alignment Plans and holding neighborhood meetings for Segment B in late Fall 2014.

King County expects to begin constructing Segment A in late spring 2015, followed by Segment B in fall 2016.

North Sammamish construction

Construction continues on the North Sammamish Segment from 187th Ave NE to NE Inglewood Hill Road. Trail safety is King County's top priority. Due to the narrow corridor, limited trail access, steep terrain, and close proximity to residences, the North Sammamish trail segment will remain closed for approximately one year during construction. Closing the trail also allows the contractor to perform multiple activities concurrently, resulting in a quicker and more efficient schedule.

Questions during construction?

Call the hotline: **1-888-668-4886** or email **ELST@kingcounty.gov**. King County's construction outreach staff are available to meet with you or answer your questions by phone and email. Thank you for your patience during construction!



South Sammamish trail segment before redevelopment.



Issaquah trail segment after redevelopment



North Sammamish trail segment before redevelopment



Improved intersection in the Redmond trail segment

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east lake sammamish trail

Thank you for your patience and support during construction of the trail!